IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A printing apparatus comprising:

printing means to which as print image is inputted to carry out no-margin printing according to the inputted print image, the print image ~~having an area larger than the area of a sheet to be printed and~~ having an image beyond the boundary of [[the]] a sheet to be printed; and

output means for dividing, on the basis of an instruction to divide one page of data into a plurality of pieces and outputting these pieces on respective pages, a print image corresponding to the sheet to be printed such that each piece of the print image corresponding to a piece of the sheet partly overlaps another piece of the print image corresponding to an adjacent piece of the sheet, and then outputting these pieces of the print image to said printing means.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said output means divides the print image so that the pieces of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces of the sheet overlaps a part of the outside of the sheet to be printed, and outputs these pieces of the print image to said printing means.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said output means divides the print image so that the pieces of the print image

corresponding to the adjacent pieces of the sheet overlaps a part of the inside of the sheet to be printed, and outputs these pieces of the print image to said printing means.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said output means subjects one page of print data inputted from input buffering means to affine transformation, divides the transformed print data, and then outputs the divided print data.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the number of pieces into which the indicated one page of print data is divided is inputted using positive integers for x and y directions of the sheet.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein division numbers are calculated for the x and y directions, respectively, on the basis of an inputted value and the sizes of the sheet in the x and y directions, respectively.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said printing means can carry out printing using an outputted print image in which at least one side of the sheet has an arbitrary size, and the print image is outputted by indicating one side of the sheet to the printing means on the basis of the division numbers inputted using the positive integers for the x and y directions, respectively.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A printing method utilizing a printing section to which a print image is inputted to carry out no-margin printing according to the inputted print

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image, the print image ~~having an area larger than the area of a sheet to be printed and~~ having an image beyond the boundary of [[the]] a sheet <u>to be printed</u>, said method comprising the steps of:

dividing, on the basis of an instruction to divide one page of data into a plurality of pieces and to output these pieces on respective pages, a print image corresponding to the sheet to be printed such that each piece of the print image corresponding to a piece of the sheet partly overlaps another piece of the print image corresponding to an adjacent piece of the sheet; and

outputting these pieces of the print image to the printing section.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A printing method according to claim 8, wherein said dividing step includes dividing the print image such that the pieces of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces of the sheet overlaps a part of the outside of the sheet to be printed.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A printing method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein said dividing step includes dividing the print image such that the pieces of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces of the sheet overlaps a part of the inside of the sheet to be printed.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A printing method according to claim 8, wherein said outputting step includes subjecting one page of print data inputted from an input buffering section to affine transformation, dividing the transformed print data, and then outputting the divided print data.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A printing method according to claim 8, wherein the number of pieces into which the indicated one page of print data is divided is inputted using positive integers for x and y directions of the sheet.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A printing method according to claim 12, wherein division numbers are calculated for the x and y directions, respectively, on the basis of an inputted value and the sizes of the sheet in the x and y directions, respectively.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A printing method according to claim 13, wherein the printing section can carry out printing using an outputted print image in which at least one side of the sheet has an arbitrary size, and the print image is outputted by indicating one side of the sheet to the printing section on the basis of the division numbers inputted using the positive integers for the x and y directions, respectively.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program product for executing a printing method utilizing a printing section to which a print image is inputted to carry out no-margin printing according to the inputted print image, the print image ~~having an area larger than the area of a sheet to be printed and~~ having an image beyond the boundary of [[the]] a sheet to be printed, said printing method comprising the steps of:

dividing, on the basis of an instruction to divide one page of data into a plurality of pieces and to output these pieces on respective pages, a print image corresponding to the sheet to be printed such that each piece of the print image corresponding to a piece of the sheet partly overlaps another piece of the print image corresponding to an adjacent piece of the sheet; and

outputting these pieces of the print image to the printing section.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A program product according to claim 15, wherein said dividing step includes dividing the print image such that the pieces of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces of the sheet overlaps a part of the outside of the sheet to be printed.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A program product according to claim 15 or 16, wherein said dividing step includes dividing the print image such that the pieces of the print image corresponding to the adjacent pieces of the sheet overlaps a part of the inside of the sheet to be printed.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A program product according to claim 15, wherein said outputting step includes subjecting one page of print data inputted from an input buffering section to affine transformation, dividing the transformed print data, and then outputting the divided print data.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A program product according to claim 15, wherein the number of pieces into which the indicated one page of print data is divided is inputted using positive integers for x and y directions of the sheet.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A program product according to claim 19, wherein division numbers are calculated for the x and y directions, respectively, on the basis of an inputted value and the sizes of the sheet in the x and y directions, respectively.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A program product according to claim 20, wherein the printing section can carry out printing using an outputted print image in which at least one side of the sheet has an arbitrary size, and the print image is outputted by indicating one side of the sheet to the printing section on the basis of the division numbers inputted using the positive integers for the x and y directions, respectively.